Sehay York

Gomersal Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR 1910.

HECKMONDWIKE:

ILLINGWORTH BROS., GENERAL PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1910.

Gomersal, February 1st, 1911.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Gomersal Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1910.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The highest point is 525 feet above sea level, and is situated in Popeley Fields, on the South Side of your area. The lowest point, 230 feet above sea level, is at Rawfolds. The whole of the district is fully exposed to any wind. The subsoil consists of clay over-laying the coal measures. From South to nearly due North runs a ridge along which the major portion of the population resides chiefly in Back-to-Back Houses.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

The Back-to-Back Houses are on the whole good, plenty of air spaces in the various streets and yards, which are not paved and are repaired chiefly with ashes; consequently they are either Dirty or Dusty according to the season. Supervision over new houses is carefully watched by the Surveyor. No action is taken under Part I., II., and III. of the Housing and Working Classes Act. The ground floor of several dwellings is below the outside surface (about 3ft. 6in.), with several feet of clear space (in front) between the dwelling and embankment. Light is admitted through a fairly large window with large panes of glass. Six cases of overcrowding have been reported. Five have been dealt with. Every citizen's dwelling has been visited once, and the sanitary arrangements noted.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bradford, from the high level, and conducted here in iron pipes. Service pipes mostly lead. Where advantage can be taken, zinc-lined pipes are advised. Quantity sufficient. Quality not up to its usual standard, and contains a good deal of colouring matter. No plumbism has come under my notice. Some wells are still used for domestic purposes. No samples have been submitted for examination. The iron service pipes require cleaning.

MILK SUPPLY.

Good and sufficient. Three samples have been submitted for examination. One was reported dirty, but otherwise good. Only a small quantity is imported. Milking utensils carefully cleaned.

COW SHEDS.

All the Cow Sheds are deficient in air space and light. They are kept fairly clean and whitewashed twice a year. Two

special inspections have been made, and 60 observations taken. During the Summer a special inspection of all cows was made. So far as I could tell no animal was suffering from tubercular troubles. Should the latter be suspected a special report has to be made to the Council. No Veterinary Surgeon is appointed.

MEAT.

Good. No tuberculous carcase or animal has been observed. The three butchers' shops being situated on the main road, constant observations are made by the Inspector and myself. No specially-certificated Inspector.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are three, which are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. Inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Officer and myself, both during the slaughtering of animals and at other times. A public slaughter house for Gomersal, or in conjunction with Birstall and Birkenshaw, situated near the Gomersal Sewage Outfall Works, which would not be far removed from the centre of each district, would be a decided improvement.

OTHER FOODS.

Good. No action has been taken under the Food and Drugs Act. No action under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. In December, 1909, a large quantity of jam, which had been exposed for some considerable time in a house infected with enteric, was destroyed, and final settlement taking place in January, 1910.

BAKEHOUSES.

These number 10, and are in a satisfactory condition. 2 special inspections have been made. No underground bakehouses.

SEWERAGE.

The great bulk is treated in two separate sections. The smaller portion at the Gomersal Irrigation Outfall Works, which are in a satisfactory condition, and capable of treating a far greater quantity. The major portion is treated by a neighbouring authority, Liversedge. A small portion is treated by Birstall, and a very small portion by Birkenshaw. The sewers are good, and flushed at regular intervals. The main sewer in Church Lane has been completed during the year.

EXTENSIONS REQUIRED.

Bird Acre, Cliffe Lane, Lower Spen, and Scott Lane.

RIVERS.

The River Spen separates Cleckheaton from Gomersal. Some small quantity of sewage finds its way into this river; but on the completion of the Cliffe Lane Sewerage Scheme, plans of which, I understand, are being prepared, pollution will be prevented.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Chiefly dry ashpits. Where advantage can be taken water closets are being substituted. Nine of the latter have been put in during the year. Some few ashpits, as in 1908, still remain uncovered.

HOUSE REFUSE

And Excrement Disposal are dealt with by the Council. At the end of 1909 the staff for this purpose was doubled, and is in a much more satisfactory condition. It is deposited on agricultural land. But this is becoming a difficulty, and ultimately a destructor will possibly have to be provided, or some arrangement made with a neighbouring authority.

BYE LAWS.

The present have been in existence since the establishment of the Local Board in 1875. The adoption of model bye laws is under consideration by the Council.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES. None.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are four. Three special inspections have been made. The sale rooms are fairly satisfactory. In the preparing rooms greater care should be observed. The drainage requires thoroughly overhauling. The refuse should be destroyed every day; no accumulation being allowed to take place even for 24 hours.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Voluntary notification was suggested in 1908, but unfortunately no results have been obtained. No distribution of literature or instructions given except a circular respecting spitting. No disinfection of infected houses. No hospital accommodation.

MIDWIVES.

One registered. No puerperal fever.

SCHOOLS.

There are three. The sanitary arrangements at the Mechanics' are fairly satisfactory. A defective inlet of sewer gas was found leaking into a school room. This was brought to the notice of the Mechanics' Committee, and at once remedied, the school being closed 2 days for this purpose. The drain from the conveniences to the main sewer in Oxford Road, at the joints, is still defective. The ashpits receive constant attention. Water closets would be much better, and doubtless would be erected if the school was likely to continue. The County Authorities are about to build a new one, plans of which, I understand, have been approved by the Board of Education. Water supply good. A series of cases of diphtheria of school children have been reported, which are dealt with under Infectious Diseases.

INFANTS' SCHOOL.

This is in a satisfactory condition. Water supply and sanitary arrangements good.

HILL TOP SCHOOL.

The sanitary arrangements are fairly good and receive constant attention. The main sewer in Church Lane has been completed during the year, thus allowing the School Authorities to connect their new water closets, which, I understand, will be done during the year. Water supply good. A strict watch is kept on all scholars by the teaching staff, and any defect found is sent for examination at once. The whole of the schools are disinfected twice a year in addition to special disinfections. This year special attention has been given owing to diphtheria. Mechanics' disinfected 7 times, Hill Top twice, Infants' twice. The drains are regularly flushed. A School County Medical Officer visits the schools, but I have not received any communication.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 10 in the district, where great care is exercised, and are fairly satisfactory. Smoke issues at times from the various mill chimneys, which I think could be mitigated.

NUISANCES.

19 official notices have been sent out. 12 complied with; not complied with, 7; abated during the year, 36.

POPULATION.

Census in 1901 gave 3,580. During the year a good many removals to and from have taken place. This, together with a change of your collector at midsummer, makes it very difficult to know the number of occupied houses. I, however, estimate the population at the end of July at 4,260, a decrease of 25 as compared with the previous year. The following calculations are based upon the estimated population :—

DEATHS.

The deaths registered in your district number 48, one less than in 1909. There were 6 deaths of residents in Institutions outside your district, giving a total of 54, a decrease of 3 on the previous year. Four deaths took place in the Dewsbury Workhouse Infirmary and two in Batley Hospital.

Deaths in Each Quarter.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter	2	6	8
2nd Quarter	8	8	16
3rd Quarter	8	4	12
4th Quarter	7	11	18
	25	29	54

The deaths were pretty well distributed over your area and call for no special comment, except in the case of diphtheria, which is dealt with under Infectious Diseases. Death rate for the

year 12.67, as against 13.30 in 1909. There were 13 deaths of people over 70 years of age (9 females, 4 males). The oldest person was a female 87 years. Four inquests were held, as against 3 in 1909. For various causes of death see Table IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants, i.e., of children under one year, number 5, a decrease of 3 in 1909. The infantile death rate is 71, this being the rate per 1,000 births. Rate since 1900 see Table I. Ages and cause of death see Table VI. With the exception of 1907 this is the lowest death rate in the last 10 years, but is still too great. If the Council would adopt the Notification of Births Act, which would allow the child to be traced, and appoint one or more health visitors who would give hints to parents on Nursing and Feeding, I feel sure the rate could be materially reduced. Troubles arising through thoughtless feeding and unnecessary exposure to cold are a frequent source of sickness, and often produce fatal results which ought in many cases to be avoided.

BIRTHS.

These number 70. Males 40, Females 30; an increase of 2. Birth rate for the year 16.43, as against 15.86 in 1909. One illegitimate birth was registered, the same number as the previous year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Total number reported during the year 39, as against 21 in 1909, an increase of 18. The increase being due to Diphtheria 9, and Scarlet Fever 10, over those reported in the previous year. Only one case of Erysipelas being reported, whereas last year there were two. Enteric being the same, 4 cases. See Table III. Respecting the Enterics, one was quite a child, and only in Hospital a short time. Two cases occurred in the same house, where the sanitary arrangements were good, the rest of the family, a large one, remaining well. The Scarlet Fever cases were scattered over the district, three of them being contact cases, and acquired from infected houses outside your district. The Diphtheria cases were scattered about your district, the major portion of the cases being on the North side of the Leeds and Elland Road, and chiefly where the drainage with the main sewer and domestic is good. The cases appeared during the year as follows:—January 1, February 1, April 2, May 2, August 1, September 2, October 4, November 2, and December 8. The greater number appeared in the latter portion of the year, which is characteristic of Diphtheria. With the exception of 4 all were of children attending school. The schools were affected as follows:—Mechanics' 12, Hill Top 4, Infants' 3. The case arising in August I could assign no definite cause. Those following were chiefly contact, either direct or indirect, principally from the desire of friends to help one another, or in some cases curiosity, the parents ignoring the severity of the disease,

and also how easily it can be conveyed from one house to another, although the carrier does not show any symptoms of the disease. After the November cases, Dr. Richmond, of the West Riding County Staff, came down and took a number of swabs (about 40) from various children's throats at the Mechanics', with the result that two carriers were found and at once isolated. A defective drain was found allowing sewer gas to enter the building (Mechanics'). This was reported to the committee and at once remedied, the school being closed two days for that purpose. Constant attention was given by the staff of all three schools and myself, any suspicious cases were sent home, and a swab submitted to the County Authorities, who invariably reported a positive or negative result. Every case under the Infectious Diseases Act was visited and a thorough inquiry made by myself and inspector. Often at different times all the dwellings and drains were disinfected, and instructions given to the householders to watch for cases of sickness, and report anything found at once. Only 2 fatal cases have happened. One where medical aid did not arrive till death had taken place, the other aid was summoned too late. This good result I attribute to the prompt removal of patients to Hospital, and where cases have been diagnosed late at night being able to administer Diphtheria antitoxin, kept by the Medical Officer, and available to any duly qualified practitioner on application. No two cases have occurred in one house. I have made over 100 inquiries. This does not include those made by your Inspector. Sixteen thousand units of Diphtheria serum have been administered to patients before removal to Hospital. Only 3 deaths have occurred from Infectious Diseases, viz., Diphtheria 2, Measles 1. Whooping Cough was prevalent during the Summer, but not of a severe type, and a few cases of Measles. Zymotic death rate, .70.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

The Oakwell Joint Hospital is situated in the Birstall Council's area. It is well equipped and capable of treating any outbreak in your district. Small Pox Hospital not required, though prepared to receive patients. No over-crowding has taken place. Total available beds, 36. Number of diseases that can be treated concurrently, six.

BACTERIOLOGY.

In 1909 over 50 specimens were submitted to the County Authority. I do not know the number for 1910, but considerably more.

HOUSES.

Number of Houses, 1,032; occupied, 990; unoccupied, 42. Inspections made, including those of the Sanitary Inspector, 1,400.

DISINFECTION

Is carried out by means of spraying or fumigating with Formalin.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Are held the first Wednesday in every month, to which a report is sent by the Medical Officer, reporting the number of Births, Deaths, Infectious Diseases, and any Nuisance or other matters that come under his notice.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factories have all been visited, and the whole are satisfactory. Box closets are emptied by the Local Authority. I should much prefer to see water closets take their place. Exit in case of fire in one or two is inadequate, and in one the box closet arrangement is unsatisfactory.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	15	0	0
Workshops ...	20	0	0
Workplaces ...	12	0	0
Total ...	47	0	0

Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	No of Prosecutions.
Want of Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Want of Cleanliness	0	0	0	0
Want of Drainaged Floors ...	0	0	0	0
Other Nuisances	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient, Unsuitable or Defective	2	0	0	0
Not Separate for Sexes ...	0	0	0	0
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouses	0	0	0	0
Breach of Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses ...	0	0	0	0
Other Offences	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0

Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	0
Failure to Affix Abstract of Factory and Workshops Act, Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Action taken on matters by H. M. Inspector as remedied under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act, — Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector,	0
Underground Bakehouses	0
Certificates Granted during the Year	0
In use at end of Year (Bakehouses and Workshops)	25
Number of Inspections, including those made by the Sanitary Inspector	60

Your Obedient Servant,

E. R. F. MASON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

GOMERSAL URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Resident registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.						
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'ed.	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	3,923	76	19.3	8	105	70	17.5	None.	None.			
1901	3,580	87	21.1	11	126	56	14.1					
1902	3,580	71	20 94	11	126	57	13.12					
1903	3,580	78	21.7	7	87	54	15			2	56	12.84
1904	3,580	68	18.36	9	14.7	72	20.1			2	72	
1905	3,580	67	18.71	5	74	55	15.36			5	55	18 71
1906	3,580	92	25.67	9	97	48	13.68			7	55	15.36
1907	4,375	71	16.22	4	56	48	10.97			4	52	11.88
1908	4,206	78	18.54	7	89	58	13.78			8	66	15 69
1909	4,285	68	15.86	8	117	49	11.43			8	57	13.30
Averages for years 1900-1909.	3,827	75	19.64	7	89	56	14.50			5	59	14.63
1910	4,260	70	16.43	5	71	48	11.26			6	54	12.67

* Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—1099.

At Census of 1901.
- Total population at all ages—3,580.
- Number of inhabited houses—887.
- Average number of persons per house—4.03

Table III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT of Gomersal.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages†—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	23		6	14	1	2		22
Erysipelas	1					1		
Scarlet Fever	11		5	4	1	1		11
Enteric Fever	4		1	2	1			4
Continued Fever								
*								
Totals	39		12	20	3	4		37

Isolation Hospital—Oakwell Joint Hospital, Birstal.

Total available beds—36. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—6.

Table IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.
GOMERSAL.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole district at subjoined ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Measles	1		1					
Scarlet fever								
Whooping-cough	1		1					
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	2		1	1				
Fever — Typhus								
Fever — Enteric								
Fever — Other continued								
Epidemic Influnza	1						1	
Diarrhœa								
Phythisis	3			1		1	1	
Other tubercular diseases	2		1		1			
Cancer, malignant disease	2					1	1	
Bronchitis	3	1					2	
Pneumonia	1						1	
Pleurisy	1					1		
Other Diseases of Respiratory organs ...	2	1	1					
Alcoholism Cirrhosic of liver ...	1					1		
Premature birth								
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	1					1		
Heart diseases	5			1		4		
Accidents	1						1	
All other causes	27	3		2		9	13	
All causes	54	5	5	5	1	18	20	

Urban District of Gomersal.

Table V.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1 to 2 Weeks.	2 to 3 Weeks	2 to 3 Months	6 to 7 Months	11 to 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes. Certified—8. ...							
All Causes. Uncertified ...							
Premature Birth							
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...							
Convulsions		1					1
Diarrhœa, all form							
Bronchitis				1		1	2
Other Causes	1		1				2
	1	1	1	1		1	5

District (or sub-division) of Gomersal. Population (Estimated to middle of 1909)—4,260.

Births in the year—legitimate, 69.
illegitimate, 1

Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 4.
illegitimate infants, 1.

Deaths from all causes at all ages—5.

TABLE C.

WATER SUPPLY—

Any development during 1910? Yes. Spen Lane.

Developments still needed? Yes. To Walsh Houses.

Any complaints as to (*a*) insufficiency? Domestic sufficient. In case of fire inefficient.

(*b*) Unsatisfactory quality. Yes. A good deal of colouring matter.

(*c*) Plumbo solvent action. Yes. On service pipes.

SEWERAGE—

Developments during 1910? Church Lane and Hill Top.

Developments still needed? Birdacre, Cliffe Lane, Spen and Scott Lane.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Any complaint as to outfall works? No.

SCAVENGING—

Any inadequacy, and where? No.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1910? None.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Any steps taken for the consideration, adoption, or application of:—

(a) Notification of Births Act, 1907. None

(b) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Being considered.

(c) Other Adoptive Acts. Private Streets Works Act.

Regulated Buildings. Trade &c.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions
Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0	
Canal Boats ...	0	0	0	
Slaughter Houses ...	3	3	constant	Fairly good
Cowsheds	15	15	60	See report
Milk Purveyors ..	20	15	3 special	See report
Offensive Trades ... (Please specify nature)	10	10	40	Fairly satisfactory

COWSHEDS—

Any special inspection made during 1910? 2 special and 60 observations.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of Dairy Cows? None.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

Any suspected spread by rats, dogs, cats, fowls, flies or fleas? No.

What arrangements for supply of Antitoxin? Kept by M.O.H.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

Any observation on adequacy or efficiency? Adequate and efficient.

Is any part used for other purpose than that originally intended? No.

SCHOOLS—

Any investigations undertaken by M.O.H.? Yes, see report.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION—

What system of notification? None.

What arrangement for treatment of Patients on sanatorium lines? None.

Any sanitary inspection of patients' houses? No. Any disinfection of ditto? No.

Any distribution of advice? Spitting only.

Any action re spitting? No.

Any disinfection of public rooms, vehicles, etc. Yes.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, etc. ACT.

No. of houses inspected during 1910? None.

No. of houses represented as unfit for habitation? None.

No. of houses dealt with by Closing Orders? None.

Are there any other houses unfit for habitation? No.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made? Yes.

Are records kept in accordance with the "Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations), 1910"? Yes, very imperfect.

Are there any working-class dwellings erected by the Sanitary Authority? No.

Any special activity in house-building? No.

Number of houses built during 1910? 1. General character, Villa.

What organised effort to control it? None.

INFANTILE MORTALITY—

What organised effort to control it? None.

Is Health Visitor appointed by S.A.? No. By other body? No.

NUISANCES—

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1909? 24. At close of 1910. 7. Reported during 1910. 73. Abated during 1910. 92.

Total No. of legal notices served for abatement of nuisances during 1910 19.

Total No. of summonses or other legal proceedings? None.

No. of sink wastes disconnected during 1910? None. Trapped? None.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1910? 15. Kinds? 9 W.C., 6 Privies.

No. of closets reconstructed during 1910? 5. Kinds? 2 Privies, 3 W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mean temperature for 1910? No observations. Rainfall, no observations.

What mortuary accommodation (*a*) for accidents, etc? None. (*b*) for infectious cases? None.

No. of burial grounds, 4. Any need for extensions? No.

Seizures of Unsound Food. Quantity of jam. See report. Prosecutions, none.

No. of Samples of Food and Drugs analysed in 1910? None. Prosecutions, none.

No. of Smoke observations taken, 20. Legal Notices, none. Summonses, none.

BIRTHS DURING 1910—

Males, 40. Females. 30 Total, 70. Number illegitimate, included in above, 1. Number of Still Births (not included), no records.

DEATHS DURING 1910—

(1) Gross deaths, i.e., total actually registered in the district, without any correction? 48

(2) Nett deaths, on which rates are calculated, males 26, Females 28. 54.

Number uncertified, included in the above. None.

Sanitary Requirements of District and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health:—

Drainage of Cliffe Lane, Birdacre, Lower Spen and Scott Lane.

Paving of streets and back yards.